alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Announcing Applicants

Public Defender

Seven attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for the position of Alaska Public Defender. Alaska Statutes 18.85.030 requires the Alaska Judicial Council to nominate two or more applicants for the Alaska Public Defender position. The governor appoints the Public Defender from the list of nominees. The governor's appointment is subject to confirmation by the Alaska Legislature. The Public Defender serves a four-year term and may be reappointed for another term by the governor without re-nomination by the Council. Any re-appointment is subject to confirmation by the Legislature. During his or her term, the Public Defender may be removed only for cause by the governor, who must report the reason for removal to the Legislature.

The applicants are:

Molly Banas: Ms. Banas has been an Alaska resident for 7 years and has practiced law for 7 years. She graduated from Regent University Law School in 2019 and currently serves as an Assistant Public Defender in Nome.

Lars Johnson: Mr. Johnson has been an Alaska resident for 17 years and has practiced law for 17 years. He graduated from New York University in 2009 and currently serves as the Deputy Public Defender for the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Anchorage.

Erika S. Kahill: Ms. Kahill has been an Alaska resident for 20 years and has practiced law for 20 years. She graduated from University of Maine School of Law in 2006 and currently serves as a Civil Division Supervisor for the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Anchorage.

Cait McFadden: Ms. McFadden has been an Alaska resident for 7 years and has practiced law for 10½ years. She graduated from Arizona Summit Law School in 2014 and currently serves as an Assistant Public Defender in Anchorage.

Renee McFarland: Ms. McFarland has been an Alaska resident for 25½ years and has practiced law for 24½ years. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 2001 and currently serves as a Deputy Public Defender in Anchorage.

Julia Moudy: Ms. Moudy has been an Alaska resident for 50 years and has practiced law for 32½ years. She graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1994 and currently works in private practice in Anchorage.

Chong Min Yim: Mr. Yim has been an Alaska resident for 35½ years and has practiced law for 22 years. He graduated from Seattle University of Law in 2003 and is currently serving as an Assistant Public Defender in Anchorage.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE APPLICANTS IS ENCOURAGED DURING THE EVALUATION PHASE OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK. TO COMMENT, OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT SUSANNE DIPIETRO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, 510 L STREET, SUITE 450, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1295, (907) 279-2526.

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